COLLECTORS' CORNER #93 AUGUST 13, 1976
PAUL FRANCUCH

"THE DIAMOND 'H' -- HEISEY GLASS"
(VOICED PIECE, INSERTS IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR: AND NOW, COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE VOICE OF AMERICA SERIES OF PROGRAMS FOR LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS, WHETHER THEY BE STAMPS OR COINS, SNUFF BOTTLES OR OLD AUTOS, EVEN BALLS OF STRING. HERE'S THIS WEEK'S REPORT, PREPARED BY PAUL FRANCUCH:

VOICE: THE SMALL CENTRAL OHIO TOWN OF NEWARK IS A SPACE YOU'VE PROBABLY NEVER HEARD OF. NOT UNLESS YOU COLLECT HEISEY GLASS. FROM 1896 UNTIL 1957, NEWARK, OHIO WAS THE HOME OF A.H. HEISEY & COMPANY, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS MANUFACTURERS OF HAND-MADE GLASS ITEMS. THE COMPANY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS IN 1957, AND THAT WAS THE END OF AN ERA IN FINE AMERICAN CRAFTSMANSHIP.

BUT THE POPULARITY OF HEISEY GLASS HAS NOT DECLINED. COLLECTORS ABOUND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND IN SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL. MANY OF THESE CRYSTAL-CHERISHING CONNOISSEURS BELONG TO THE HEISEY COLLECTORS OF AMERICA. THE CLUB PRESIDENT, MRS. LOUISE REAM, TELLS US ABOUT THE TREASURES CREATED IN HEISEY'S NEWARK FACTORY:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- REAM

"THEY MADE MOSTLY TABLEWARE, HOTEL AND BARWARE. THEY DIDN'T MAKE VERY MUCH OF WHAT IS CONSIDERED ART GLASS... MOSTLY JUST USEFUL GLASSWARE AND ALWAYS VERY FINE QUALITY. AUGUSTUS H. HEISEY WAS THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY, AND OF COURSE WAS THE FOUNDER IN THE FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS. /HE WAS PRESIDENT UNTIL 1922, THEN WHEN HE DIED HIS SON WILSON BECAME PRESIDENT. WHEN WILSON DIED IN 1942, HIS BROTHER CLARENCE BECAME PRESIDENT OF THE COMPANY. HE WAS STILL PRESIDENT WHEN THEY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS IN 1957." /

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VOICE: HEISEY GLASS ITEMS CAME IN A VARIETY OF COLORS AND WITH HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT ETCHINGS AND CARVINGS. NO PIECE IS IDENTICAL TO ANOTHER. BUT THAT'S NOT THE MOST OUTSTANDING ASPECT OF HEISEY GLASS:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- REAM

"THE CLARITY OF THE GLASS IS WHAT STANDS OUT. THE FIRST THING ANYBODY WANTS TO KNOW IS WHAT YOU CLEAN THIS GLASS WITH. YOU CLEAN IT WAS THE SAME THING YOU DO ANY OTHER GLASS. IT'S THE FINISH OF THE GLASS THAT GIVES IT SPARKLE AND BEAUTY, AND THAT IS WHAT REALLY ATTRACTS PEOPLE. AND, OF COURSE, THE WIDE VARIETY OF PATTERNS AND COLORS ALSO."

VOICE: HEISEY GLASS COLLECTORS OF AMERICA IS ONLY FIVE YEARS OLD, YET ALREADY HAS A ROSTER OF SOME 2,300 MEMBERS. A GOOD PERCENTAGE OF THEM GATHER IN NEWARK, OHIO EVERY YEAR FOR THE CLUB'S ANNUAL CONVENTION. AND WHEN THEY GATHER, SAYS CLUB PRESIDENT LOUISE REAM, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS WHAT THE CONVERSATION WILL CENTER ON:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- REAM

"WELL NATURALLY, THEY TALK ABOUT HEISEY GLASS! IT'S THE GREATEST BUNCH OF PEOPLE YOU CAN IMAGINE. THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO OUR VERY FIRST CONVENTION STILL COME BACK. THEY HAVE TRADE SESSIONS WHEN WE HAVE OUR CONVENTION IN JUNE. /WE HAVE ANTIQUE SHOWS -- THIS YEAR WE HAD SIXTY DEALERS FOR THE ANTIQUE SHOW. AND WE HAVE MEETINGS WHERE WE HAVE A PANEL TO IDENTIFY GLASS. AND WE HAVE ALL KINDS OF ACTIVITIES, AS ANY CONVENTION DOES. /WE HAVE SEMINARS ON GLASS -- ON HARD TO FIND MARKS AND THE VARIOUS ASPECTS OF COLLECTING HEISEY GLASS."

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VOICE: CLUB MEMBERS GATHER IN A ONE-HUNDRED-FORTY-FIVE-YEAR-OLD GREEK-REVIVAL HOUSE WHICH THEY CONVERTED INTO THE NATIONAL HEISEY GLASS MUSEUM. /THE DISTINGUISHED BUILDING WAS SLATED FOR THE WRECKING BALL (DEMOTION) IN 1973 TO MAKE WAY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW MOTOR LODGE, BUT CLUB MEMBERS MANAGED

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VOICE: (CONT'D) TO SECURE THE HOUSE AS A DONATION, AND IT WAS MOVED TO A NEW SITE. THROUGH MEMBERSHIP FUNDS AND A GRANT FROM NEWARK, OHIO'S THOMAS J. EVANS FOUNDATION, THE OLD HOME WAS RESTORED TO ITS ORIGINAL BEAUTY.

VISITORS FROM ALL OVER HAVE STOPPED BY TO VIEW THE LARGE SELECTION OF HEISEY VASES, JARS, ANIMAL FIGURINES AND PLATES. THEY CAN ALSO VIEW FACIMILIES, OR "FAKES." GENUINE HEISEY PIECES MADE SINCE 1900 BEAR THE COMPANY'S TRADEMARK: THE LETTER "H" CENTERED IN A DIAMOND-SHAPED ETCHING. BUT CLUB PRESIDENT LOUISE REAM SAYS SOME COLLECTORS HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THEIR "DIAMONDS" ARE NOTHING MORE THAN WORTHLESS GLASS:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- REAM

"SOME PEOPLE WORRY BECAUSE THE IMPERIAL CORPORATION OF BELLAIRE, OHIO DID BUY THE EXISTING HEISEY MOLDS WHEN THEY WENT OUT OF BUSINESS. BUT THE ONLY GLASS IMPERIAL HAS MADE WAS THE LATE HEISEY PATTERNS. THE EARLY PATTERNS WERE GIVEN OR SOLD FOR SCRAP IRON DURING WORLD WAR TWO. SO WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FAKES."

VOICE: HEISEY GLASS -- AN AMERICAN ORIGINAL FROM NEWARK, OHIO.

ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO COLLECTOR'S CORNER, THE WEEKLY VOICE OF AMERICA PROGRAM FOR VOA LISTENERS WHO COLLECT THINGS... FROM STAMPS TO COINS ...TO HEISEY GLASS. PRODUCTION ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PROGRAM WAS PROVIDED BY BRAD KROHN. JOIN US AGAIN (NEXT WEEK AT THIS TIME) FOR ANOTHER COLLECTOR'S CORNER.

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